

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20

XMB-07 OPIC-12 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 SCI-06 NEA-10

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SAJ-01

OIC-04 ARA-16 AF-10 EA-11 /258 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6261

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: SCHEEL'S VIEWS ON FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 0255

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1. SUMMARY: ONN JANUARY 16, DURING QUESTION TIME AT THE

JANUARY SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT STRASBOURG, FRG FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER SCHEEL, SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL, USED THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY QUESTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S JANUARY 15 DECISION (REFTEL) TO ACCEPT PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. SCHEEL EXPRESSED HIS STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO AN EC COMMON POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. GAULLIST MEMBER COUSTE ASKED SCHEEL WHETHER THE COUNCIL COULD COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARAB-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE (WHICH HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBILITY IN RECENT PRESS REPORTS). SCHEEL REPLIED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AT A LATER DATE. HE INDICATED THIS WAS A QUESTION THAT MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. THIS EXCHANGE LED TO A NUMBER OF SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS FROM OTHER MEMBERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE OIL SITUATION. SCHEEL USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STATE PUBLICLY THE COUNCIL'S DECISION ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO THE FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE AND GAVE HIS OWN VIEWS ON THIS AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

3. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM CONSERVATIVE MEMBER NORMANTON REGARDING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF AN EC MEETING WITH ISRAEL, SCHEEL SAID: QUOTE: AS YOU KNOW, THERE WILL BE A CONFERENCE DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11 OF OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES WHICH HAS BEEN CONVENED BY THE US PRESIDENT. HIS INVITATION SHOWED THIS CONFERENCE IS IN NO WAY AN ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE AND OLIGARCHY OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES. THIS CONFERENCE WILL ALLOW US TO SHAPE A REASONABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN SUPPLIERS AND CONSUMERS. WE WILL TRY TO FIND A PATCH WHICH WILL LEAD TO TALKS WITH PRODUCERS. THESE TALKS MUST THEN BE EXTENDED TO OTHER LDCS WHO ARE ALSO OIL CONSUMERS. END QUOTE. (THE QUOTES IN THIS MESSAGE ARE FROM THE ENGLISH SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FROM THE GERMAN AND NOT THE ORIGINAL GERMAN AND ARE THUS SUBJECT TO ERRORS.)

4. ANOTHER CONSERVATIVE MEMBER, SCOTT HOPKINS, ASKED ABOUT A COMMON EC POLICY DURING THE CONFERENCE. SCHEEL SAID: QUOTE: THE COMMUNITY IS PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE AND WILL BE REPRESENTED THERE AS THE COMMUNITY AND WILL PUT FORWARD ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEWS AS A COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL TOOK THE POSITION YESTERDAY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL MEMBER STATES WILL BE INVITED AND THE COMMUNITY ITSELF WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION. THE COMMUNITY WILL DEVELOP ITS OWN VIEWS: THERE WILL BE NO COMMON ENERGY POLICY BEFORE FEBRUARY 11, BUT OUR IDEAS WILL BE SHAPED BY COMMON CONSIDERATIONS. THE MEMBER STATES WILL BE IN A POSITION

TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS, BUT THEY WILL NOT ADVOCATE THOSE VIEWS IN A VACUUM. AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE BY THE COMMISSION TO HARMONIZE COMMUNITY VIEWS. I HOPE THAT EUROPE'S IDENTITY WILL BECOME FEASIBLE AT THE CONFERENCE; IT IS A QUESTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S ABILITY TO ACT TOGETHER. END QUOTE.

5. SCHEEL ALSO DISCUSSED PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE BY FRANCE (BUT WITHOUT

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